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**Melanthium latifolium**, Desrouss, has been found in New Jersey. It was collected on a field excursion of the Club at Swartswood, Sussex Co., and first noticed by Mr. Wm. Bower, growing on a dry limestone ledge in open woods. A single flowering specimen was seen among numerous sterile plants, and this was fully four feet high, the panicle of greenish-brown flowers and half-ripened pods being two feet long and one foot in width. The leaves were all borne on the lower part of the stem and were eight inches long by two wide.

N. L. BRITTON.

**Dioclea Boykinii**.—I found this plant while collecting in S. Arkansas in 1881, but, unaware of its rarity, I put two or three specimens only in my hand-press, and sent those to Cambridge to Dr. Gray, from whom I learn that the species is so rare that a very few specimens only are known in the herbaria of the country. I propose to visit the locality next summer and collect enough for everybody, providing I get enough subscribers for the species to pay my expenses—my time being thrown in for the good of science.

Those who desire specimens should send their subscriptions to me as early as possible.

Fayetteville, Ark.

F. L. HARVEY.

**The Notholæna Lemmoni** has been successfully grown during the past year in the conservatory of the Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and in several other conservatories in the same city, and also in Oakland. It proves to be quite hardy and makes much larger fronds than in its habitat on the Santa Catalina Mountains. The fronds are 12–15 inches high and 2 inches broad, and the broad, dark border of fruit contrasts very finely with the silvery whiteness of the powder beneath. It is becoming a very popular fern.

Oakland, Cal.

J. G. LEMMON.

### Botanical Notes.

*The Continuity of Protoplasm*.—The subject of the continuity of protoplasm by means of delicate threads through the walls of vegetable cells attracted considerable attention at the meeting of the Biological Section of the British Association at Southport. Mr. W. Gardiner, who has examined fifty species of plants and found this continuity of protoplasm in all of them, pointed out that this fact places us in a position to obtain a clearer insight into such phenomena as the downward movement of a sensitive leaf upon stimulation, the influence of a germinating embryo upon the endosperm cells, and of the action of a tendril towards its support. Professor Hillhouse suggested that the protoplasmic threads may serve to transmit impulses from one cell to another and thus act somewhat like a nervous system. Dr. Carpenter remarked that there are forms in the animal kingdom in which the cell is never arrived at, but in which there is simply a continuity of protoplasm, so that the lower forms of the animal and vegetable kingdoms are here closely approximated to one another.